



American Bakers Association

Serving the Baking Industry Since 1897

July 22, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Room H-232
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Room H-204
Washington, DC 20515-6537

RE: ABA Key Vote – Support H.R. 1599, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act

Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

This week, the House of Representatives will vote on H.R. 1599, the “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act”. This legislation will ensure American food labeling is based on consistent, national standards driven by science. The American Bakers Association (ABA) urges you to support the bill.

ABA is the Washington D.C.-based voice of the wholesale baking industry. Since 1897, ABA has represented the interests of bakers before the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and international regulatory authorities. ABA advocates on behalf of more than 1000 baking facilities and baking company suppliers. ABA members produce bread, rolls, crackers, bagels, sweet goods, tortillas and many other wholesome, nutritious, baked products for America’s families. The baking industry generates more than \$102 billion in economic activity annually and employs more than 706,000 highly skilled people.

Consumers across the country should be presented with the same food labels no matter where they shop. Various state labeling laws would result in a complex maze of differing regulations that would impose costly new burdens on the baking industry as well as all food producers. These costs will be passed on to consumers in the form of higher food prices. In fact, a 2014 study out of Cornell University found that these costs could total up to \$500 per year for an average family should a patchwork of state and local labeling laws go into effect. This bill will guarantee that labeling is uniform across state lines and will prevent food costs from skyrocketing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of H.R. 1599, the “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act”. **This will be a key vote for ABA.**

Sincerely,

Robb MacKie
ABA President and CEO